

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SAIGON 04000 281504Z

64

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W

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R 281024Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3092

S E C R E T SAIGON 4000

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: OCLR EG VS

SUBJECT: GOE REQUEST FOR HELP IN OVERFLIGHT OF SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: CAIRO 1577

1. FAHMY'S ADAMANT STAND NOT SURPRISING UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. HOWEVER, ONE THOUGHT OCCURS TO ME WHICH MIGHT LET US BE HELPFUL TO FAHMY AND MIGHT BE SALABLE TO THE GVN. SINCE IT WOULD IMPLY A DEFERRED COMPENSATORY POLITICAL ACTION BY THE GOE I WOULD APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR EILTS REACTION BEFORE PROCEEDING. IN ANY EVENT I WILL NOT WANT TO APPROACH THE GVN UNTIL THE RETURN TO SAIGON OF FOREIGN MINISTER BAC EXPECTED LATER THIS WEEK.

2. MY ESTIMATE IS THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO GET THE GVN TO MOVE ON UNILATERAL BASIS WITH NO COMPENSATORY ADVANTAGE. I WOULD PROPOSE TO BAC THAT THE GVN GRANT OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS TO GOE FOR THREE MONTH PERIODS SUBJECT TO RENEWAL AFTER CONSULTATIONS. I WOULD POINT OUT THAT THIS COSTS GVN NOTHING BUT OBVIOUSLY KEEPS GOE UNDER SUBTLE PRESSURE TO RECOGNIZE THAT "PRG" HAS NOTHING WHATEVER TO OFFER THE GOE. THE ENSUING DIALOGUE MIGHT RESULT IN DIPLOMATIC BREAKTHROUGHS WHOSE PRECISE NATURE COULD NOT BE FORECAST BUT WHICH COULD HARDLY FAIL TO BE BENEFICIAL TO GVN. FINALLY, I WOULD POINT OUT THAT IT WOULD NOT BE UNUSEFUL FOR US TO APPEAR TO HAVE ASSISTED IN A SMALL FAVOR TO THE GOE AT THIS POINT IN THE MID-EAST NEGOTIATIONS.

3. I THINK THIS MIGHT POSSIBLY FLY, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW AMBASSADOR EILTS' OPINION OF GOE REACTION BEFORE I TRY IT OUT

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ON BAC.

MARTIN

NOTE BY OCT: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER MR. KURZE S/S-O.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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